

be the answer to stemming a tax revolt here in Nebraska. The problem with this measure is that it attacks the wrong tax in our state. According to some reports, the sales and income tax citizens in Nebraska rank 45th in the nation or one of the very lowest. While at the same time, our property tax ranks 50th or one of the very highest. As you can see, this proposal attacks the wrong problem. The property tax in Nebraska is where the problem lies and it is the property tax where we need to find a solution. The single largest portion of this state's budget goes to aid of the overproperty tax situation. With this type of lid, more pressure will be put on the already saturated property tax because the state operating budget will begin to take up more while less will be left to go to the aid of local governments. And I noticed in the handout that Senator Wesely handed out that the general fund levy went up only 12 percent while all other segments of government went up considerable more. So we have held our cost down, yet our people they say think we should hold the line. Not only does LR 19 attack the wrong problem, but in my opinion, it is a wrong solution to the wrong problem. This is not a time to restrict state government in this way. The motion around the country is to return power to the states and with this return of power, the states will spend more money. And we know that with our welfare at the present time. We have to take more responsibility in this area and it's going to cost us more money. I guess I'm confused at the names of those sponsoring LR 19. I would guess all of these people are strong supporters of the Reagan Administration. If that is the case, these people should be in favor of expanding state spending, as our authority grows and new federalism takes hold. I feel LR 19 is a proposal that appeals to the blind side of the voters. This enticing proposal obviously sounds good to a taxpayer but we, as State Legislators, know better and should kill LR 19. And I really feel that this is a bad proposal and I'm willing to face my constituents on this very issue. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely and then Senator Chambers.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I co-signed the kill motion as well and I feel that we should kill LR 19 at this time. I feel that way for a couple of different reasons and Senator Sieck already has referred to one of my handouts. If you look at the two handouts I have passed out, you'll see number one, a trend that indicates that instead of the state and local governments being the bad guys, I think the real bad guy and the one we've known all along is really been a serious problem in terms of spending, it's been the federal government. What you see particularly interesting, though, is that since 1980, since